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OBJECTS OF BENEVOLENCE: Foreign Missions, Home Missions, State Missions, Ministerial Education, Mississippi College, Sustentation of Aged Ministers Home Uses.

DECEMBER: MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN STATES: "And Jesus said, I have compassion on the multitude." Missionaries, 331; baptisms, 4,312; Sunday Schools, 1,413; teachers and pupils, 17,270; tracts distributed, 544,038.

STUDY TOPICS: Changed conditions. Religion is a source of comfort in States not sufficient to meet the demands in those States. City evangelization. Destitute regions. Immigration. Importance of immediate action.

A CHRISTMAS REMINDER. AN APPEAL FOR A CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO CHINA.

How touching is the appeal God makes to us through his psalmist in the hundred and third psalm: "Bless the Lord, Oh my soul, and do not forget that thou art a creature."

one but God had decreed that I think it would have read: "Bless the Lord, Oh my soul, and remember all His mercies." But God knows his frail, ungrateful, forgetful creatures. With a mighty fitting of his greatness to our incapacity, he pleads that while his mercies stand in forgotten thousands around us we will remember some—some few, a little company in the multitude that wait us in from death, danger and destruction. He seems to say: "Forgetful child, to whom my every thought to you—ward is a thought of blessing, stop, forget not ALL!"

the multitude of my thoughts his comfort delight my soul?"

The age is thoughtful. We read, we hasten, we contrive; we spare no time to think. We know but few of the books that make up the celestial library, but one special edition was told. It is a Book of Remembrance that was written of them "that feared the Lord and that thought upon his name."

Since God so values thoughts of him, I call you as the Christmas-time approaches to remember. Day melts into day and, it maybe, we think no; but one day in the year brings us all to pause; the recurring anniversaries of our birth brings thoughts to the most thoughtful. Choose now, to light up the fading pathway of your past and bring out from the brightness of the blessings by the way, a woman of your own age from the millions of the heathen women of China. Mark out, as fully, as you can, her life, year by year, by yours. Be she the happiest of her race, darkness stands over against light; woe against happiness. What maketh you to differ? It is summed up in one word—Christ. In his birth was bound up every blessing of your recurring year's godly thoughts.

childhood, a happy girlhood, revered and cherished wifehood, an honored motherhood and cherished old age. Christ's birthday has brought us every birthday blessing. Christmas brings the time of his birth ever to mind. It is fitting, then that we should bring offerings of thanks and praise for all the blessings of our year through him.

Year by year the Baptist women of the South have joined with a Week of Prayer for Missions, a Christmas offering. This year in the midst of the precious Week of Prayer you are asked to make a Christmas Birthday Offering to China, for its millions without Christ. That our year may shine out as radiant cycles of blessing and our hearts be touched to pity, the Christmas program is a portrayal of the life of Chinese women.

Let me urge every woman who reads these words to turn aside for a little while and think of all the blessings of her way, and thinking determine that in her society or, at least, in her home the first week of the new year shall be given to thoughtful, thank-filled prayer coupled with an offering of a penny, a nickel or a dime for every year of her life.

Think on his mercies, forget not all his benefits, count a few grains from the measure of his blessing until the joy wells up and fills our hearts with praise to overflow in deeds of mercy as we sing:

"Were the whole realm of nature mine, 'T were a price I could not attain, Love so amazing, so divine, Deserves my heart, my life, my all."

FANNIE E. H. HICK, Pres. Woman's Missionary Union.

DEAR SISTER—I desire to request each president of a society to read the above letter from Miss Hick to her society, and as you read, pray that each one may be thoroughly impressed with her duty to God and to those who sit in darkness.

Programs for the Week of Prayer, and programs and envelopes for the Christmas Offering, will be gladly sent free if you will notify Mrs. Sproules, Jackson, Miss., the number of each you desire.

NARY E. AYKIN, Clinton, Miss., Nov. 23, 1895.

PANSIES FOR THOUGHTS.

BY M. H. HAMILTON.

"Of course she does not get to a social game," exclaimed Gordon Danforth, rather impatient at the interruption.

"But, my dear young friends, I do object, very seriously, to even a social game," whispered Gordon to Nell.

Then as one young lady asked, "But Miss Helen, will you not tell us your reason for opposing even a social game?" Gordon Danforth, with much horror in his tone, whispered to the fair companion,

"Now for a lecture on card-playing. Oh! Miss Nell, do come to the rescue; avert the catastrophe." Nell Hargrove's laugh rang out gayly, and, acting on the impulse of the moment, she exclaimed: "Oh! Miss Helen, do spare us a lecture, to-night—no, to-night of all nights. We will not play any more now, so, instead of the lecture, suppose you give us the history of that lovely play you always

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wear, and which you once promised to tell us of."

"Oh! please do," echoed a chorus of voices.

The pallor deepened in Miss Helen's cheek, and her hand trembled, as she unclasped from the soft lace at her throat, a curiously beautiful pin. It was in the shape of a pansy. Its purple leaves were of amethyst, its yellow of topaz, while in the center, glistened a diamond dew-drop. Its stem was of fine gold.

"Well, I will tell you the story, instead of giving the lecture," said Miss Helen.

"This pin was given me by a very dear friend—but I may as well tell you the truth—he was more than a friend, my betrothed lover. Need I tell you, that he was young and handsome—and, to me, seemed all that was noble and true?"

Here, she paused, and her eyes rested on Gordon Danforth.

"He was about your age, at the time of which I speak," she continued, "and there is something about you, that strongly reminds me of him. He had the same dark hair and eyes—he too, loved dearly the social game, and he too, boasted that he always won at

ing with him, never dreaming of the bitter end."

Here her gaze rested on Nell.

"What was the harm? It was only a social game."

There was a pause, then, in a lower voice she went on, while the little group listened in breathless silence.

"One night, news came that he was dead. He had taken his own life, after taking the life of a fellow-man. They told me the whole story; how he frequented the gambling halls, how he staked more and more money and lost, how he had learned to drink, and finally, how one night after losing heavily, he had, in a moment of drunken frenzy, taken human life. Then, in an agony of remorse, he aimed the pistol at his own heart. The shot did not immediately take effect, but he did not linger long.

For some time, I had noticed a change in my lover, though I little dreamed the cause. Oh! that my friends had not kept the story of his gambling from me, for I might have saved him—as it was, my influence only served to increase his passion for gaming.

When I recovered from the severe illness, which the shock of his death brought on, they gave me this pin, which he sent with his last breath, and the request that I would never again play a game of cards; for, to the social game, he dated the beginning of his downfall. I wear his pin always, not only as a sweet memento of the

last days, but also as a reminder of my own folly."

There was a solemn silence in the little group, and, as the old lady replaced the pin, she said: "Do you wonder now, why I oppose even a social game of cards?"

Later on, when the whole gay crowd assembled in the drawing-room, Miss Helen noticed that the little group, to whom she had unfolded her life-story, looked very thoughtful. She also noticed that each of the girls wore on their bosoms a bunch of her purple pansies, while each young man had a single blossom pinned on his coat.

"We wear your pansies," whispered Nell Hargrove, "to show you, that we will never forget the lesson you have taught us; and as for the passion for cards was growing on me," he said, "but by God's help, I will never play again."

[THE END.]

CHRISTMAS LITERATURE.

Programs for special Christmas services, envelopes for offerings and suggested topics for prayer January 5-11, can be obtained from Mrs. R. P. Sproules, Jackson, Miss. Please state number of programs, envelopes, etc., desired.

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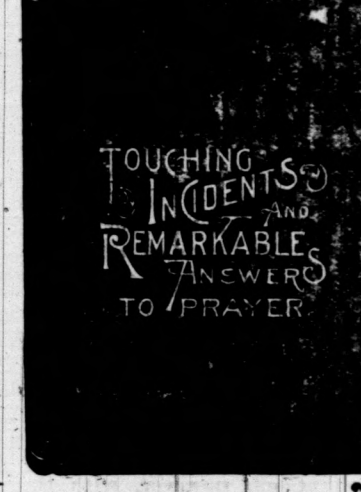
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